

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 22 AUGUST 2021

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za while the text bulletin can be downloaded from <https://sarlnewsbulletin.wordpress.com/>. To join the MailChimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

THE WEB WORKING GROUP

THE 30 METRE BAND CHALLENGE

and

IARUMS INTRUDER WATCH REPORTS “BURST SIGNAL” FROM CHINA

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We start this bulletin with news of a silent key.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Herman Horn, ZS5LH went silent on Thursday 19 August 2021. Herman was a member of the Hibiscus Coast Amateur Radio Club and served as Secretary for many years. He was an active member of the Club contesting team.

We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

PAUSE

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

THE WEB WORKING GROUP

A work party is being put together to work on the replacement for the present SARL website. Anyone with skills in PHP and/or CSS who would like to assist in the project, is asked to please contact Dave Higgs, ZS2DH by e-mail to om@zs2dh.co.za.

THE SARL 40 METRE GRID SQUARE SPRINT AND THE SARL HF CW CONTEST NEXT WEEKEND

The fourth SARL 40 m Grid Square sprint is on the air from 12:00 to 13:00 UTC (14:00 to 15: CAT) on Saturday 28 August with CW and phone activity. The exchange is an RS or RST report, your grid square, and the name or abbreviation of your Club. Submit your log sheet by 23:59 CAT on Thursday

2 September by e-mail to zs4bfm@mweb.co.za. Get the rules on page 65 of the 2021 Blue Book.

The aim of the HF CW Contest is for participants to contact as many radio amateurs in Southern Africa as possible on 20, 40, and 80 metres and will run from 14:00 to 17:00 UTC (16:00 to 19:00 CAT) on Sunday 29 August. The exchange is an RST report and a consecutive serial number starting at 001. Each QSO counts 2 points. Get all the rules on page 86 of the 2021 Blue Book.

THE 30 METRE BAND CHALLENGE

In SARL News of 8 August 2021, there was an article about the use of SSB on the 30 metre band. Well, the SARL Council has decided that the 30 Metre Band Challenge will be held on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 September 2021 with the aim of working towards your 30 Metre Worked All ZS and 30 Metre Worked All Grid Squares Awards. It is not a contest! CW and digital modes may be used during the whole 48 hours, while phone activity may only take place between local sunrise and sunset on Saturday and Sunday. What do you exchange with the other station? Well, your call sign, your name, a realistic signal report, your grid square, and maybe your SOTA, IOTA, POTA reference. After the Challenge, upload your log to the SARL Electronic QSL system (and LoTW, ClubLog, QRZ, etc.,) and confirm any QSL requests at the same time. Submit your log to secretary@sarl.org.za to claim your SARL 30 Metre Challenge certificate.

THE 2021 SOUTH AFRICAN LIGHTHOUSE CERTIFICATE

Did you take part in the 2021 International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend either as an activator or a chaser? Well, remember to apply for your 2021 South African Lighthouse Certificate, there is a log sheet on the Contest page of the League website. Send your log sheet to zs4bfm@mweb.co.za with a closing date of Tuesday 31 August 2021.

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IARUMS INTRUDER WATCH REPORTS “BURST SIGNAL” FROM CHINA

The IARU Region 1 Monitoring System (IARUMS) reports that besides the already well-known intruders, some new or rarely heard signals have been spotted, including a burst signal from an over-the-horizon radar (OTH-R) in China. The IARUMS July newsletter reported that this signal, in 3,8 second bursts, was encountered repeatedly on different 40 metre frequencies as well as on 20 metres. NATO military systems were more active on various amateur bands using a variety of modes, such as MIL188-110A, LINK 11 CLEW and SLEW, STANAG 4285, STANAG 4481-FSK, and MIL188-14A ALE.

FSK-ARQ and PSK-ARQ emissions with typical 600 baud, 600 Hz, or even 1 200 Hz, have been conspicuous for some time. These are known as DPRK 600 and 1 200, respectively and are attributed to North Korea. For many days, a LINK 11 CLEW station was active on 7 159.0 kHz in DSB mode (double sideband, 6 kHz wide), at times causing heavy interference.

Predominant over-the-horizon radars monitored included the Russian Contayner, as well as the British PLUTO system from Cyprus, generating annoying interference. On 14 301.9 kHz, an orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) 60 signal could be found occasionally.

Some broadcasters interfere regularly. Radio France Internationale on 7 205 kHz splatters down to 7 186 kHz between 21:00 to 22:00 UTC. The Voice of Broad Masses is regularly found on 7 140 and 7 180 kHz. China Radio International is often found on 14 000 kHz and Sound of Hope from Taiwan is sometimes audible if conditions permit, but the signal is often jammed. The July IARUMS Newsletter is available from the Region 1 website at www.iaru-r1.org/.

CONTEST NEWS

Twenty-four (24) logs were received for the second leg of the SARL YL Sprint held on Monday, 9 August 2021. Thirteen logs came from the YLs!

1st Sonet De Wet, ZS3SW – 123 points

2nd Adele Tyler, ZS5APT – 120 points

3rd Esmè Walsh, ZS3EW – 117 points

The results after the two legs of the Sprint

1st Karin Andrew, ZS6MMA – 252 points

2nd Sonet de Wet, ZS3SW – 213 points

3rd Dienie Schnettler, ZS6DNI – 192 points

Eight logs were received for the second leg of the SARL Youth Sprint held on 14 August.

1st Chris Avenant, ZS6CPA – 17 points

2nd Johan van Zijl, ZS4DZ – 16 points

3rd Steve Brooks, ZS3SB – 12 points

The results after the two legs of the Sprint

1st Bryce McLean, ZU1BM – 32 points

2nd Kiara McLean, ZU1ISS – 30 points

3rd the Eastern Cape Hammies, ZS2ZU – 28 points

Ten logs were received for the SARL HF Digital contest held on Sunday, 15 August. The results will be published in HF Happenings 961. The IARU Region 1 Field Day takes place over the weekend of 4 and 5 September. The Namibian Amateur Radio League will be setting up a field day station to participate in the event.

The second Early Morning Coffee Sprint will take place on Wednesday, 8 September. The second leg of the SARL National Field Day is scheduled for the weekend of 11 and 12 September and the second leg of the SARL VHF/UHF Digital contest for the weekend of 18 and 19 September.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There is currently a single, small sunspot region with simple magnetic configuration visible and no flaring activity is expected. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around one. The 17 to 30 m bands will during the late afternoons provide some DX fun. For more information, please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

28 August – The SARL 40 m Grid Square Sprint, the CTARC virtual meeting and the Pretoria ARC Flea Market

28 and 29 August – The 41st Australian Ladies Amateur Radio Association Contest

29 August – The SARL HF CW Contest

31 August – The Secunda ARC meeting

4 September – The West Rand Flea Market and the Durban ARC meeting

4 and 5 September – The IARU Region 1 HF Field Day and the Namibian Field Day

6 to 8 September – Rosh Hashanah

8 September – The Early Morning Coffee Sprint

11 and 12 September – The SARL National Field Day and the Worked All Europe SSB contest

13 September – The West Rand ARC meeting

15 September – The SARL 80 m Wednesday Club Sprint

15 and 16 September – Yom Kippur

18 September – The Magalies and Highway ARC meetings

18 and 19 September – The SARL VHF/UHF Digital contest

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our leading news story:

A work party is being put together to work on the replacement for the present SARL website. Anyone with skills in PHP and/or CSS who would like to assist in the project, is asked to please contact Dave Higgs, ZS2DH by e-mail to om@zs2dh.co.za.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to be included in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio programme, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The programme can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments, and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, edited by Herman Erasmus, ZS6CTA and read by

From the News team, best wishes for the week ahead.